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Shepton Mallet Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Including the Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector

For the Year Ending 31st December, 1945



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Shepton Mallet Rural District Council

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL:

SIR REGINALD A. HOBHOUSE, BART., C.C., J.P.

CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

CHARLES NEALE, Esq.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

DR. T. E. COULSON, M.D., F.R.C.S.E. (Part-time).

HEALTH VISITORS :

MISS E. WHITELEY, CANNARDS GRAVE, SHEPTON MALLET.

MISS I. M. ABBOTT, HIGH STREET, GLASTONBURY.

SANITARY INSPECTORS :

H. G. LAWLESS, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. CERT. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J. BOARD. CERT. MEAT AND
OTHER FOODS. (Senior—Resigned 1/12/45).

A. E. T. NETTING, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. CERT. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J. BOARD. CERT.
MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. (Additional—Appointed 1/5/45. Senior—Appointed 1/12/45).

CLERICAL ASSISTANT :

MISS P. WALLEN (Appointed 27/8/45).

WINCANTON,

SOMERSET.

July, 1946.

TO THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SHEPTON MALLET.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to lay before you my Annual Report for the year 1945.

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	47,784
Population (1945)	...	...	...	...	10,130
Number of Inhabited Houses (1943)	...	...	...	...	3,081
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£44,168
Produce of a Penny Rate (estimated)	...	...	...	...	£184

2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

BIRTHS.

LIVE BIRTHS :—		Males.	Females.
Total	...	82	79
Legitimate	...	71	68
Illegitimate	...	11	11

Birth Rate : 16.1 per 1,000.

STILLBIRTHS :—

Total	...	4	1
Legitimate	...	4	1
Illegitimate	...	0	0

Birth Rate : 0.46 per 1,000.

DEATHS.

	Total.	Males.	Females.	
Deaths from all causes :—	139	76	63	Death Rate 11.4 per 1,000.

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth :—

(a) From Sepsis	...	0
(b) From other causes	...	0

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

Legitimate, 2. Illegitimate 2. Total 4.

Deaths of Infants under One Week	...	3
„ „ „ from One to Four Weeks (inclusive)	...	1
„ „ „ from One to Six Months	...	0
„ „ „ from Six to Twelve Months	...	0
Total	...	4

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	0
„ „ Diarrhoea (under two years)	...	0

There has not been any excessive mortality during the year.

The total number of Deaths occurring in the District was 139, compared with 115 in 1944.

The chief causes of Death were :—

Heart Disease	...	47
Cancer	...	9
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	13
Old Age	...	20

In these four "Causes of Death" :—

Those dying between the ages of 75 and 80 were	...	37
„ „ „ „ 81 and 85 „	...	14
„ „ „ „ 86 and 90 „	...	14
And dying above the age of 90	...	3
A total of 68 or 48.92% of the total Deaths.		

3.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to the Isolation Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria ...	7	2	0
Scarlet Fever ...	10	15	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	0	0
Pneumonia (all forms)	1	0	3
Whooping Cough ...	14	0	0
Measles ...	92	1	0
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	1	1	0
Dysentery ...	0	1	0
Erysipelas ...	2	1	0
Tuberculosis :—	...		
(a) Respiratory ...	15	0	5
(b) Non-respiratory ...	1	0	0
	145	21	8

The Notification of Infectious Diseases in the District by Medical Practitioners was satisfactory, except in the cases of Pneumonia, Scarlet Fever and Dysentery.

4.—OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

No cases notified.

5.—CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

Measles was somewhat in evidence throughout the District. The type of the disease was mild and there were no deaths.

Pneumonia caused 3 deaths.

6.—SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITAL AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE IN THE DISTRICT.

A.—PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME :—

- (1) General :—There are 9 nurses in the District engaged in general district work, who are affiliated to the County Nursing Association, and between them they cover the whole District.
- (2) For Infectious Diseases :—Some of the cases of Infectious Disease were removed to the Joint Isolation Hospital, the remainder were either nursed by their relatives or by nurses obtained from Nursing Homes or Hospitals outside the District.

B.—MIDWIVES.

There are 9 certified Midwives practising in the District.

C.—CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

None in the District.

D.—HOSPITALS SITUATED IN THE DISTRICT.

None.

The following cases were admitted to the Shepton Mallet Joint Isolation Hospital from the District during the year :—

			Number Admitted.	Number Died.
Scarlet Fever	...	...	15	0
Diphtheria	...	...	2	0
Dysentery	...	...	1	0
For observation	...	...	2	0
Erysipelas	...	...	1	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	1	0

E.—INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS, ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS AND HOMELESS CHILDREN.

None.

F.—AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

- (1) For Infectious Cases. A Motor Ambulance kept at the Joint Isolation Hospital, Shepton Mallet, is used in the District for the collection and removal of infectious cases.
- (2) For non-infectious cases and accidents. The Motor Ambulance provided by The Shepton Mallet Urban District Council, and kept at The Wells Road Garage (Tel. 126), is used when necessary.

G.—GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

Evacuees in the Shepton Mallet Rural District :—

January, 1945 :—893 Mothers and Children, including Unaccompanied Children.

December 31st, 1945 :—94 Mothers and Children. 10 Unaccompanied Children.

The following Hostels were abandoned during the year :—

Mayfair, Shepton Mallet, in September, 1945.

Springfield, Evercreech, in December, 1945.

H.—SCABIES.

There have been very few cases of Scabies in the District. All have been treated at home by their own Doctor.

There has been no occasion to have recourse to The Scabies Order, 1941.

7.—LABORATORY WORK.

Examinations of bacteriological and pathological specimens are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at Taunton, and considerable use of this Laboratory has been made during the year.

A supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin is kept at the Isolation Hospital, Shepton Mallet, and is supplied free on demand to Practitioners practising in the District.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

I.—WATER.

With the exception of the Parishes of Lydford and Downhead the district is fairly well provided with piped supplies of water, but at most of the sources of supply there is insufficient water to meet the demand during a dry season.

Shortages of water during the year were not serious, but from October 15th to 25th, it was found necessary to curtail the supplies of Ditchet and Pilton during the night hours only from 6 p.m. to 7 a.m. following the three weeks' drought of September.

All water supplied to Parishes of Ditchet, Evercreech, Holcombe, Milton Clevedon, Pilton and Stoke Lane, was chlorinated throughout the year at .3 p.p.m.

Water supplied to parts of the Parish of Ashwick and the Parishes of Emborough, Binegar and Stratton-on-the-Fosse was also chlorinated continuously.

Two schemes for improvement of the water supplies of the district were prepared by the Council.

- (a) For the collection of additional water near the source of the existing Farncombe Supply at an estimated cost of £1,680; and
- (b) For new distribution mains throughout the parish of West Bradley at an estimated cost of £10,031.

Both schemes were the subject of Public Enquiry held by the Ministry of Health on August 23rd, 1945, and were finally approved in November. At the close of the year the schemes were being prepared for invitation of tender.

OTHER NEW SUPPLIES.

The District Council engaged the services of Professor W. G. Fearnside, Geologist, to advise them on the possibility of obtaining additional water supplies for the district, and on his advice have been prospecting for water at Alham in the parish of Batcombe, where there are good prospects of obtaining an underground supply of water for augmenting the supplies in the southern part of the district.

Trial borings are proceeding and at the close of the year sufficient data had been obtained to enable Professor Fearnside to say that his first opinion had been confirmed, and that the prospects were good.

A considerable amount of preliminary work will be necessary before the amount of water obtainable can definitely be ascertained and these works are proceeding.

A survey by Professor Fearnside has also been made of other parts of the district and the possibility of obtaining other sources of supply is being investigated.

Last available figures of the position relating to the Water Supply in the District.

Parish.	No. of Houses.	No. having piped water supply into or on to the house.	No. of Houses supplied by standpipe.	No. supplied by well or other supplies.
Ashwick ...	296	221	54	21
Batcombe ...	105	35	20	50
Binegar ...	87	58	27	2
West Bradley ...	85	65	13	7
Cranmore ...	117	56	39	22
Crocombe ...	168	53	94	21
Ditchheat ...	190	152	33	5
Doultong ...	151	93	36	22
Downhead ...	40	4	13	23
Emborough ...	56	48	6	2
Evercreech ...	380	306	46	28
Holcombe ...	170	135	31	4
Lamyat ...	38	22	1	15
Lydford ...	120	9	12	99
Milton Clevedon ...	24	12	9	3
East Pennard ...	117	52	15	50
Pilton ...	236	183	25	28
Pylle ...	54	12	5	37
Stoke Lane ...	191	145	35	11
Stratton-on-Fosse ...	406	336	59	11
Totals ...	3031	1997	573	461

Samples were taken during the year with results as shown :—

(a) PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES.

Number of samples taken	...	...	45
Satisfactory	...	...	39
Not quite satisfactory	...	...	5
Unsatisfactory	...	...	1

(b) PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES.

Number of samples taken	...	...	3
Satisfactory	...	...	—
Not quite satisfactory	...	...	—
Unsatisfactory	...	...	3

MINISTRY OF HEALTH ENQUIRIES.

Ministry of Health enquiry, held on August 23rd, 1945, into the Farncombe and West Bradley Water Supply Schemes.

2.—DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Comprehensive systems of sewerage exist in the villages of Doultong, Evercreech and Oakhill, whilst about two-thirds of Stratton-on-the-Fosse village is sewered. In the remaining villages there exist small sewers, some of which have small disposal plants, but the majority discharge into the highway drains or ditches with little or no treatment.

No new sewers or extensions were constructed during the year.

Where house drains do exist, many are connected to cesspools and septic tanks, but the majority are in a more or less unsatisfactory condition and discharge either straight into ditches or over the land. A start was made during the year to secure improvements on modern lines.

WATER SUPPLIES AND SEWERAGE ACT, 1944.

SEWERAGE.

The Council engaged the services of a consulting Engineer to prepare an outline report, with maps and estimates, for sewerage and sewage disposal for the whole of the Rural District.

These schemes were considered by the Council and in accordance with the request of the County Council were arranged in order of priority.

The priority grouping arranged the schemes into the following four categories, namely :—

- (a) Works capable of being forthwith carried out because of the existence of piped water supplies extensively laid on to indoor sanitary fittings and thereby creating a need for sewerage and sewage disposal schemes and in some cases necessary also to permit full development of new housing sites.

- (b) Schemes dependent upon improved water supply.
- (c) Schemes dependent upon new water supply systems.
- (d) Other areas in which sewerage schemes are not justified or not urgent.

Details of these schemes together with the report of the District Council were deposited with the County Council for their observations and report on May 22nd, 1945.

The County Council report was made to the District Council on November 28th, 1945, and at the close of the year was still the subject of discussion between the two authorities.

As a basis for further discussion, and on the recommendation of the County Council Consultant, the following parishes were placed in Priority Group I :—

- (a) Gurney Slade—Estimated cost £15,000.
- (b) Stratton-on-the-Fosse—Estimated cost £13,000.
- (c) Holcombe (the combined scheme with Stoke Lane advocated by the Rural District Council was not agreed to by the County Council). Estimated cost for Holcombe alone not available.
- (d) Oakhill—Alterations to works to ensure greater efficiency. Estimated cost £750.
- (e) Evercreech—Alterations and extensions of works. Estimated cost not available.
- (f) Croscombe—Estimated cost £9,000.

The estimated costs given above are 1939 prices. It is regretted that 1945 prices are not available, but the Consulting Engineer stated that 1945 prices would mean an addition of from 50% to 80% to the prices given.

3.—CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Many pail closets and privies exist throughout the district, and every opportunity is taken to secure conversion.

4.—HOUSE REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The scavenging of the area during the year has been, as in the past, carried out by contract under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors.

A re-organisation of the method of collecting house refuse was considered with the view to extending the service throughout the whole area of the Council and incorporating the collection of salvage, the whole being carried out by direct labour. It was, however, decided that the present time was not suitable for such a sweeping change and the matter was deferred.

In the meantime it was decided that when the contract for collection was renewed, Pilton Parish should be included. An endeavour should also be made to increase the frequency of the service in the Parish of Croscombe, from monthly to fortnightly, and in view of special circumstances from fortnightly to weekly in the Parishes of Holcombe and Stratton-on-the-Fosse.

The refuse was disposed of by a modified system of controlled tipping at the site of the old disused quarry at Moorwood, the work being carried out by the contractors in reasonably satisfactory manner. It was recommended, however, that an additional disposal site be obtained in another part of the District preferably in the south, and this matter is receiving attention.

5.—SALVAGE.

This service is carried out by direct labour and has shown fairly good results during the year. The figures as set out below unfortunately show a marked decrease in the return, more especially in the case of paper, ferrous metals, bottles and jars, and this decline appears general throughout the county. It is gratifying, however, to record that this district was placed first out of sixteen rural districts in the County of Somerset.

Weights and Sales of Salvage from 1/1/45 to 31/12/45 :—

				Value.			
		Tons.	Cwts.	Tons.	Cwts.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Paper	...	48	0½	(69	1)	362 0 9	(510 0 0)
Ferrous Metals	...	65	14	(92	5)	97 0 10	(184 0 0)
Non-Ferrous Metals	...		4½	(	7½)	4 10 0	(8 5 0)
Rags	...	8	11½	(10	0½)	72 6 3	(90 0 0)
Bottles and Jars	...	6	13½	(11	6)	78 15 9	(83 15 0)
Rubber	...	1	5	(3	18)	1 11 3	(12 5 0)
Bones	...	8	17	(7	14)	50 19 2	(44 5 0)
Totals	...	139	5¾	(194	12)	£667 4 0	(932 10 0)

The figures in brackets are those for the year 1944.

6.—SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following report has been furnished to me by the Senior Sanitary Inspector under Article 27 of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935 :—

a.—VISITS.

The following visits were made during the year :—

Premises visited ...	...	...	...	...	842
Number of re-visits in regard to such Premises, work in progress, etc. ...	...	...	...	...	419
Housing Act—Overcrowding ...	...	...	...	...	1
Infectious Disease ...	...	...	...	...	12
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops ...	...	...	...	...	10
Milk Samples ...	...	...	...	...	401
Water Samples ...	...	...	...	...	3
Fish Shop (Fried) ...	...	...	...	...	2
Butchers' Shops ...	...	...	...	...	11
Meat Inspection and Slaughterhouses ...	...	...	...	...	335
Other Food Inspection ...	...	...	...	...	8
Application for Council Houses ...	...	...	...	...	12
Rat Suppression ...	...	...	...	...	18
Sewage Disposal ...	...	...	...	...	1
Building Licences ...	...	...	...	...	5
Refuse Tips ...	...	...	...	...	12
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	...	62

NOTICES :—

	Informal.	Statutory.
Served ...	54	Nil.
Complied with ...	40	Nil.
Outstanding ...	14	Nil.

From the above summary of visits it will be seen that by far the greatest amount of time was spent in connection with the inspection of dwelling houses and meat and other foods. One inspector was engaged wholtime for the greater portion of the year in connection with the Rural Housing Survey.

b.—SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was taken during the year.

c.—CAMPING SITES.

There are no sites in the District which were registered during the year under this heading.

d.—RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 & 1928.

There are no premises in the District on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

e.—RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

It will be remembered that the No. 1 Workable Area Committee (Somerset) was formed with nine other Local Authorities collectively to employ operators and deal with the problem. The combined scheme went through many vicissitudes, but finally settled down to four authorities (of which we are one) employing one man on e week each per month. Early in the year under review it was decided there was insufficient work available to keep the one man fully occupied and as a result the four constituent authorities of the Workable Committee agreed to terminate the appointment of the Rodent Operator. Since then the Committee have met at intervals and discussed points and problems encountered in practice. A few complaints of infestation by rodents have been received during the year and suitable action has been taken in each case.

The stream at Croscombe was inspected and the banks found to be heavily infested with rats. Owing to the heavy growth of vegetation it was agreed that these banks be disinfested when the vegetation died down. Preparations for this to be done were being made at the close of the year.

The Councils sewers were test baited during the year with negative results.

At the close of the year the Council was considering the appointment of a Servicing Company to deal with all infestations.

f.—INSECT PESTS.

No case of bed bug infestation was dealt with during the year. Two houses were disinfested of fleas.

HOUSING.

1.—During the year the Preliminary Survey of Housing throughout the District was commenced in accordance with the recommendations of the Report of the Rural Housing Sub-Committee under the Chairmanship of Sir Arthur Hobhouse.

The conclusion arrived at as the result of the Survey to date is that the general standard of housing is very low and a large number of new houses will be needed to house the families displaced when the time comes for active procedure under the demolition section of the Housing Act.

It is quite possible when conditions controlling house repairs are easier that a large number of those houses which are of very low category may be reconditioned and brought up to a good standard. A great deal depends upon whether or not financial assistance will be made available to the owners of the various properties in the form of grant, as was the case during the operation of the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.

As the result of shortages of labour and materials it has not been possible during the year under review to undertake any great action to improve the condition of houses, "not in all respects fit," but various nuisances and sanitary defects of an urgent nature were dealt with by informal action.

No statutory action was undertaken.

Parish.		No. of Houses.	No. Inspected and Recorded.	No. to be Inspected.	Categories.					
					1.	2.	3.	4	4a.	5
Ashwick	...	294	241	53	11	38	117	12	—	63
Binegar	...	90	73	17	2	12	37	5	—	17
Emborough	...	45	16	29	—	—	3	11	—	2
Stoke Lane	...	208	147	61	20	10	74	7	—	36
Stratton-on-Fosse	...	410	310	100	22	40	172	24	1	51
Totals	...	1047	787	260	55	100	403	59	1	169

The houses shown as inspected include those of rateable value up to £16. Those to be inspected are properties over £16 rateable value.

It will be seen that the number of houses recommended as unfit for human habitation and incapable of being rendered fit (Category 5) represent 21.47 per cent. of total houses inspected.

2.—OVERCROWDING.

There are estimated to be a number of cases in the district which cannot be readily abated. Some are due to unofficial evacuation and other war-time causes; many are due to the increase in ages of growing families and separate new families. One new case of serious overcrowding was reported during the year and every effort to abate the condition has so far failed.

3.—HOUSING PROGRAMME.

The Council has had this matter constantly before them, during the year. Reasonable progress has been made in connection with the initial ten houses of the first year's programme of twenty-four.

It is regretted that it was impossible to embark upon a bigger programme, but facilities for building in the district are very restricted. As the capacity of available labour for building becomes known it is hoped to speed up and increase proposed schemes.

i. Total Number of Applicants for Council Houses as at the end of 1945	...	...	101
		Av. Rent Incl. or Excl. of Rates.	Subsidy per Year L.A. Government.
ii. Houses Erected by :	Type.	No.	Period.
(a) Local Authority		Nil.	
(b) Private Enterprise	Agricultural (3 Bedroom)	1	£1,200
	Temporary (1 Bedroom).	1	3/- per week, inclus. of rates.
iii. Houses in course of erection by :—			£10
(a) Local Authority		Nil.	40 years.
(b) Private Enterprise	Bungalow (1 Bedroom)	1	Owner-Occupied.
	Semi-detached	2	£1,200

iv.	Number of unfit houses licensed for habitation	...	...	...	31
v.	Number of houses requisitioned by the Council	...	...	...	18
vi.	Number of houses previously condemned but still occupied	...	...	...	10

vii.—Programme of New Houses to be erected by Local Authority :—

(a) First Year—24.

The Council's programme for second and third year was still under consideration at the end of 1945.

During the year the policy of requisitioning houses for evacuated persons was extended to include inadequately houses persons and homeless persons and the term "evacuees" disappeared.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1.—MILK SUPPLY.

(a) There are within the district three hundred and sixty-five dairy farms registered with the Local Authority. Of these some one hundred and sixty four are licensed to produce graded milk. In two instances licences to produce Accredited Milk were suspended.

Unfortunately it was not found possible during the year to carry out routine inspections, although it is gratifying to report that improvements have been carried out in a number of instances.

Number of Producers registered	...	...	365
Number of Producer—Retailers registered	...	...	60
Number of Retailers (not Producers)	...	...	3
Heat Treatment plants	...	...	1

Graded Milk :—

Number of Producers Tuberculin Tested milk	...	56
Number of Producers Accredited milk	...	108
Number of Retailers Tuberculin Tested milk	...	Nil.
Number of Retailers Accredited milk	...	Nil.

The following samples of graded milk were taken during the year with results as shown :—

Tuberculin Tested	...	133—41 Unsatisfactory (30.8%).
Accredited	...	235—84 Unsatisfactory (35.9%).
Heat Treated	...	6—All passed the Phosphatase Test, one failing the Methylene Blue Test.

Every endeavour is made to follow up all unsatisfactory results.
27 samples of milk were examined for Tubercle Bacilli ; all were negative.

2.—MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Number of Animals Inspected :—

Cattle	...	...	2210
Calves	...	...	7337
Sheep	...	...	6185
Swine	...	...	519
Goats	...	...	Nil.

Total weight of diseased/unsound food surrendered was approximately 52 Tons 7 Cwt. 2 Qrs.
25 lbs., made up as follows :—

CATTLE.

DISEASE.

168 Carcasses & Offal.	Dropsy, Emaciation, T.B. Septicæmia, Moribund, Bruising, Retained Placenta, Pyelo-Nephritis, Septic Metritis, Gangrenous Pneumonia, Johne's Disease.
64 Parts of Carcasses.	Bruising, T.B.
428 Livers.	T.B., Flukes, Cirrhosis, Cavernous Angioma.
56 Hearts.	Pericarditis.
68 Skirts.	T.B.
407 Lites.	T.B., Pleurisy, Congestion.
92 Melts.	T.B.
241 Heads and Tongues.	T.B. Actinomycosis.
200 Mesenteries.	T.B.
2 Kidneys.	Nephritis, Cancer.

CALVES.

14 Carcases & Offal.	Quarter-ill, Joint-ill, Uraemia, Ill-bled, T.B. Umbilical pyæmia.
1 Part of Carcase.	Bruising.
43 Plucks.	Melanosis, T.B. Inflammation.
8 Heads.	T.B.
2 Livers.	T.B.

SHEEP.

48 Carcases & Offal.	Dropsy, Emaciation, Moribund, Improper Bleeding.
5 Parts of Carcases.	Internal Bruising.
1 Pluck.	T.B.
409 Livers.	Parasites, Flukes.
35 Heads.	Coenurus cerebralis.

PIGS.

11 Carcases & Offal.	Swine Fever, T.B., Bacillary Necrosis, Moribund.
2 Parts of Carcases.	Bruised and Broken Bones.
38 Plucks.	T.B.
8 Livers.	Cirrhosis, T.B.
66 Heads.	T.B.
7 Mesenteries.	T.B.

As will be seen from the above figures a very large number of animals were killed during the year, and an immense weight of unsound meat was surrendered. This has necessitated the devotion of a considerable amount of inspectorial time and evening hours on at least 4 days every week.

OTHER FOODS SURRENDERED.

4 x 6lb. Tins corned Mutton.	Blown.
64 x 12oz. Tins Corned Beef	Blown and punctured.
2 Tins National Household Milk.	Decomposition.
1 x 10oz. Tin Scotch Broth.	Blown.
11 Jars Horseradish Cream.	Leaky and rusted covers.
6 x 14½oz. Tins Evaporated Milk.	Blown and Leaky.
6 A.1 Tall Tins Beans in Tomato Sauce.	Blown and Leaky.
7 x 2½lb. Tins Pork and Beans.	Blown and Leaky.
28lb. Pork Tenderloins.	Decomposition.

3.—SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Number of Registered Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	Nil.
Number of Licensed Slaughterhouses ...	...	...	...	12

Of the above mentioned twelve premises, eleven have not been used during the war except for the very occasional slaughter of private pigs. The remaining premises at Bridge Farm, Pylle, were in the occupation of the Ministry of Food, and the meat obtained here was supplied over a very wide area.

There is one licensed Knacker Yard in the District.

4.—SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

A register of all licensed slaughtermen, pursuant to Section 3 (1) of the above mentioned Act, is kept and the number so licensed is 11.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. E. COULSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

